Please cancel Claims 2 and 11 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 through 8, 10, 12, and 14 through 16 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus ~~for encoding image data to record it onto a recording medium,~~ comprising:

input means for inputting a high definition image signal and a standard definition image signal;

encoding means for encoding ~~an inputted~~ the high definition image signal input by said input means by a first encoding method to output high definition encoded image data, and encoding the standard definition image signal input by said input means by a second encoding method different from the first encoding method to output standard definition encoded image data ~~by a plurality of different encoding methods to form a plurality of encoded image data~~;

sync data generating means for generating ~~a plurality of~~ sync data for the high definition image signal and sync data for the standard definition image signal, the sync data for the standard definition image signal having a different sync pattern from the sync data for the high definition image signal ~~having different patterns respectively corresponding to said plurality of encoding methods~~;

mode setting means for setting one of a high definition image recording mode in which the high definition image signal input by said input means is recorded and a standard definition

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image recording mode in which the standard definition image signal input by said input means is recorded;

control means for controlling said sync data generating means in accordance with the recording mode set by said mode setting means so as to ~~output said~~ generate the sync data for the high definition image signal in the high definition image recording mode and to generate the sync data for the standard definition image signal in the standard definition image recording mode ~~having the pattern corresponding to a selected one of said plurality of encoding methods~~; and

recording means for forming a plurality of sync blocks by adding ~~said~~ the sync data ~~corresponding to said selected encoding method~~ for the high definition image signal to each of a predetermined amount of ~~said~~ the high definition encoded image data ~~encoded by the selected encoding method~~ and recording an encoded data stream constructed by said plurality of sync blocks of the high definition encoded image data onto the recording medium in the high definition image recording mode, and for forming a plurality of sync blocks by adding the sync data for the standard definition image signal to each of a predetermined amount of the standard definition encoded image data and recording an encoded data stream constructed by said plurality of sync blocks of the standard definition encoded image data onto the recording medium in the standard definition image recording mode.

2. (Cancelled)

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3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said ~~high quality~~ first encoding method is an MP@HL method or an MP@H-14 method in an MPEG encoding system and said ~~standard quality~~ second encoding method is a DV format method specified by the HD Digital VCR Council.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing the encoded data stream from said recording medium;

decoding means for decoding ~~by said plurality of encoding methods~~ the high definition encoded image data and the standard definition encoded image data in the encoded data stream reproduced by said reproducing means;

sync data detecting means for detecting said sync data from a plurality of sync blocks in the encoded data stream reproduced by said reproducing means and discriminating the encoding method of ~~said reproduced~~ the encoded image data in the encoded data stream reproduced by said reproducing means on the basis of ~~a result of said detection~~ the sync pattern of the detected sync data; and

control means for controlling ~~the encoding method which is used in~~ said decoding means on the basis of the encoding method discriminated by said sync data detecting means.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording medium is a magnetic tape.

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6. (Currently Amended) A reproducing apparatus ~~for reading out image data from a recording medium to reproduce it,~~ comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing <u>from a recording medium</u> an encoded data stream <u>constructed by a plurality of sync blocks each including encoded image data encoded by a first encoding method or a second encoding method different from the first encoding method and sync data having different sync patterns according to the encoding method of the encoded image data</u> ~~from said recording medium~~;

decoding means for decoding<u>,</u> by a ~~plurality of different encoding methods~~ <u>decoding method corresponding to the first encoding method or the second encoding method,</u> the encoded image data in the encoded data stream reproduced by said reproducing means;

sync data detecting means for detecting sync data from a plurality of sync blocks in the encoded data stream reproduced by said reproducing means and discriminating the encoding method of ~~said reproduced~~ <u>the</u> encoded image data in ~~accordance with a result of said detection~~ <u>the encoded data stream reproduced by said reproducing means on the basis of the sync pattern of the detected sync data</u>; and

control means for controlling ~~the encoding method which is used in~~ said decoding means ~~on the basis of~~ <u>so as to decode the encoded image data corresponding</u> to the encoding method discriminated by said sync data detecting means.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein ~~said plurality of encoding methods include~~ <u>the first encoding method comprises</u> a high quality encoding method

of encoding a video signal of high quality and <u>the second encoding method comprises</u> a standard

quality encoding method of encoding a video signal of standard quality.

       8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said ~~high quality~~ <u>first</u>

encoding method is an MP@HL method or an MP@H-14 method in <u>an</u> MPEG encoding system

and said ~~standard quality~~ <u>second</u> encoding method is a DV format method specified by the HD

Digital VCR Council.

       9. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said recording medium is a

magnetic tape.

       10. (Currently Amended) A recording method ~~of encoding image data to record it onto a~~

~~recording medium,~~ comprising:

     <u>an input step of inputting a high definition image signal and a standard definition image</u>

<u>signal;</u>

     an encoding step of encoding ~~an inputted~~ <u>the high definition</u> image signal <u>input in said</u>

<u>input step by a first encoding method to output high definition encoded image data, and encoding</u>

<u>the standard definition image signal input in said input step by a second encoding method</u>

<u>different from the first encoding method to output standard definition encoded image data</u> ~~by a~~

~~plurality of different encoding methods to form a plurality of encoded image data;~~

     a sync data generating step of generating ~~a plurality of~~ sync data <u>for the high definition</u>

image signal and sync data for the standard definition image signal, the sync data for the standard definition image signal having a different sync pattern from the sync data for the high definition image signal ~~having different patterns respectively corresponding to said plurality of encoding methods;~~

a mode setting step of setting one of a high definition image recording mode in which the high definition image signal input in said input step is recorded and a standard definition image recording mode in which the standard definition image signal input in said input step is recorded;

a control step of controlling said sync data generating step in accordance with the recording mode set by said mode setting step so as to ~~output said~~ generate the sync data for the high definition image signal in the high definition image recording mode and to generate the sync data for the standard definition image signal in the standard definition image recording mode ~~having the pattern corresponding to a selected one of said plurality of encoding methods in said sync data generating step~~; and

a recording step of forming a plurality of sync blocks by adding ~~said~~ the sync data ~~corresponding to said selected encoding method~~ for the high definition image signal to each of a predetermined amount of ~~said~~ the high definition encoded image data ~~encoded by the selected encoding method~~ and recording an encoded data stream constructed by said plurality of sync blocks of the high definition encoded image data onto the recording medium in the high definition image recording mode, and for forming a plurality of sync blocks by adding the sync data for the standard definition image signal to each of a predetermined amount of the standard definition encoded image data and recording an encoded data stream constructed by said plurality

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of sync blocks of the standard definition encoded image data onto the recording medium in the standard definition image recording mode.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~11~~ 10, wherein said ~~high quality~~ first encoding method is an MP@HL method or an MP@H-14 method in an MPEG encoding system and said ~~standard quality~~ second encoding method is a DV format method specified by the HD Digital VCR Council.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein said recording medium is a magnetic tape.

14. (Currently Amended) A reproducing method ~~of reading out image data from a recording medium to reproduce it,~~ comprising:
a reproducing step of reproducing from a recording medium an encoded data stream constructed by a plurality of sync blocks each including encoded image data encoded by a first encoding method or a second encoding method different from the first encoded method and sync data having different sync patterns according to the encoding method of the encoded image data ~~from said recording medium~~;
a sync data detecting step of detecting sync data from a plurality of sync blocks in the

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encoded data stream reproduced in said reproducing step and discriminating an encoding method of ~~the~~ encoded image data ~~of said reproduced data stream~~ in ~~accordance with a result of said detection~~ the encoded data stream reproduced in said reproducing step on the basis of the sync pattern of the detected sync data; and

a decoding step of decoding the encoded image data ~~in the encoded data stream reproduced in said reproducing step, by~~ corresponding to the encoding method detected in said sync data detecting step.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein ~~the encoding methods include~~ the first encoding method comprises at least one of a high quality encoding method of encoding a video signal of high quality and the second encoding method comprises a standard quality encoding method of encoding a video signal of standard quality.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~11~~ 10, wherein said ~~high quality~~ first encoding method is an MP@HL method or an MP@H-14 method in an MPEG encoding system and said ~~standard quality~~ second encoding method is a DV format method specified by the HD Digital VCR Council.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein said recording medium is a magnetic tape.